



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/752,050	12/29/2000	Ravi Subramanian	9824-035-999	8994

24341 7590 03/09/2004

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS, LLP.
3300 HILLVIEW AVENUE
PALO ALTO, CA 94304

EXAMINER

BURD, KEVIN MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2631

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

file

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/752,050

Applicant(s)

SUBRAMANIAN ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin M Burd

Art Unit

2631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. This office action, in response to the remarks filed 12/23/2003, is a non-final office action.

Response to Amendment

2. The previous objection to the specification is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see the remarks, filed 12/23/2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-8 under 35 USC 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Dao et al (US 6,275,891) in view of Lowe et al (US 6,173,243).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dao et al (US 6,275,891) in view of Lowe et al (US 6,173,243).

Regarding claims 1, 6, 9 and 10, Dao discloses the signal processing apparatus in figure 1. This circuitry is modified to provide an additional hardware accelerator (channel pooling signal processor) to carry out specific algorithms (column 1, lines 61-63). The hardware accelerator is coupled to the DSP 109 (column 1, lines 64-66) and the DSP performs less computationally intensive tasks than the hardware accelerator (column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 3). The hardware accelerator includes its own memory buffer and directs the transfer of data over the bus 112 (column 2, lines 4-6). This data transfer is the managing of data flow into and out of the channel pooling signal processor. Since the hardware accelerator comprises a hardware accelerator for quickly carrying out specific algorithms and a memory buffer, it comprises a plurality of computational units.

Dao does not disclose a test interface for testing the function of the plurality of computation units. Lowe discloses it is important to provide means for testing the proper functionality of the system and to provide fault corrections during system operations (column 1, lines 19-32). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the testing method and components of Lowe in the apparatus of Dao. This will increase the reliability and efficiency of any computer system by minimizing or preventing the occurrences of faulty operations (column 1, lines 19-22).

Regarding claims 2 and 7, Dao discloses specific algorithms are carried out (a data sequencer for controlling program execution), a memory buffer (dedicated

Art Unit: 2631

memory) and configurable logic (the hardware accelerator is digital circuitry) in column 1, line 61 to column 2, line 13.

Regarding claims 3-5 and 8, the combination is capable of receiving multiple data streams as shown in figure 2 of Dao.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cooley et al (US 5,546,383) discloses, in column 9, lines 49-67, two processors, where one carries out computationally intensive processes while the other processor manages data flow and carries out less computationally intense processes.

Contact Information

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry or for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Burd, whose telephone number is (703) 308-

Application/Control Number: 09/752,050

Page 5

Art Unit: 2631

7034. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.



Kevin M. Burd
PATENT EXAMINER
3/5/04